

way of life. From Vietnam to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to Desert Storm, Gary's leadership as a commander and director played a key role in our force readiness policies.

Despite this distinguished career, Gary was just getting started. He served on the National Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association, as vice chair of the Florida Veterans Foundation, as chair of the Polk County Veterans Council, as chairman of the Flight to Honor Polk, and serves on the James A. Haley VA Hospital Advisory Board, among others.

On a personal level, he has also aided my office and those of my two predecessors with the military service academies nomination process—his deep insight and knowledge have helped numerous students throughout the years who also proudly served our country. And just this past September, Gary joined the 8th class to enter the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is Americans like Gary who have sacrificed their time, their talents, and their treasures for both this Nation and their neighbors. When I see an American flag, I think of Gary, and I am so proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Gary for his service; and to many more years ahead, I salute him.

REMEMBERING BISHOP MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of Bishop Matthew Williams, a longtime community and faith leader from our district, and a personal inspiration to me.

Bishop Williams was born in March of 1956, in Lakeland, Florida, the son of the late elder Matthew Williams, Sr., and the late Mother Louise Williams. He graduated from my alma mater, Brandon High School, in 1974, and attended Hillsborough Community College. Yet, at the age of 17, and during a period of national unrest, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and, in 1982, became a full-time minister at Brown Memorial Church of God in Christ, forever impacting countless lives in our community.

Not only was Bishop Williams always available to help anyone in need, he always was a source of strength and guidance to his peers. Given his dedication to his neighbors and faith, it is no surprise that he was elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board, the highest executive and administrative board within his denomination.

Mr. Speaker, our community and my family extend our deepest sympathies to the Williams' family, especially to his wife, Gayle, and his daughter, Deniece. Though, he will be missed, we know that he still lives in the presence of Almighty God and awaits our next meeting.

WAR ON COVID-19

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY. I represent the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, and I am here on this auspicious day to stand up for the people of the Ninth Congressional District who are suffering right now under this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, we know that already we have seen the deaths of 286,000 people, rivaling the total number of people who have died in World War II. We are at war with this virus. Fifteen-plus million Americans have contracted this virus. But it is not only the suffering of people and the families of people who have died and the people who have this terrible disease, but it is also an issue for the rest of Americans who are suffering right now.

Mr. Speaker, like every other Member of Congress, I am sure that you are getting the calls that I am getting; people—adults—who are weeping into the telephone and telling us about their fears, the suffering that their families are facing, the loss of jobs.

A man called crying, saying, "I can't pay my rent. I have lost my job. I am so afraid that, along with my family, we are going to be out on the street."

A woman called somewhat embarrassed to tell us that she cannot put food on the table for her children. We directed her to a food bank. Think of that; in the richest country in the world, that she had to rely on a food bank to be able to feed her family.

Mr. Speaker, in this country today, 1 out of 4 of our children is considered—what we say—food insecure.

What does that mean?

It means that they don't know where their next meal is going to come from. This is shameful.

People who are facing—the day after Christmas—losing their unemployment benefits. In Illinois, that is half a million people. Around the country, that is 16.4 million people who may be without any source of sustenance.

Mr. Speaker, this is America. We need to save our people. So we need to come to an agreement, and we need to come to it soon because people are desperate right now.

Mr. Speaker, the things that we need to do:

Number one, I believe that we need to send a check to every family. They need money in their pockets.

And where is that money going to go?

It is going to go right out into the community, helping all the small businesses that we are so concerned about. That \$1,200 check that people got earlier in the year was a lifesaver, and we should do something similar right now.

Mr. Speaker, we need to extend those unemployment insurance benefits. Our economy actually was somewhat thriving when they were getting \$600 a week to keep their families going. I am not necessarily asking for that amount of money, but we should continue the unemployment insurance benefits. Again, that money goes right out into the economy.

And then we have to end the idea of some sort of a liability shield. In many ways, it is really a get-out-of-jail-free card for companies that don't have to take care of their employees when they get sick.

Mr. Speaker, 48 million workers put their own lives in danger every day and suit up and go out into the world taking care of our elderly, working in hospitals, working in grocery stores, loading our shelves, and taking our money when we leave. These people deserve help, and the employer should not be freed from any kind of liability.

Mr. Speaker, we need the State and local money, and we need help for small businesses. We can do that. We must do that.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SHOAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Shoar on a well-deserved retirement from a 40-year, lifelong career from law enforcement. David has been with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office since being elected sheriff there in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. That is 16 long years of faithful service to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

He has been an outstanding leader for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and initiated many innovations during his tenure. Sheriff Shoar actually began his law enforcement career with the St. Augustine Police Department in 1981, serving as a patrol officer before being promoted to sergeant in 1991.

Because of his leadership, knowledge, skills, and abilities, in 2000, he was appointed as chief of police, following successful stints as operations commander and administrative services commander. Just 4 years later, in 2004, he would then begin his career as sheriff of St. Johns County.

Mr. Speaker, that is when I really came to know Sheriff Shoar, during the Florida Sheriffs Association's new sheriffs school. Although we both attended an earlier training class in Wakulla Springs and really had gotten to be close friends, it was at this new sheriff's training that I truly began to appreciate Sheriff Shoar's intelligence and his insights.

Sheriff Shoar is also a decorated soldier in the Florida National Guard, later retiring as a major after 24 years of service to our Nation and our State. He served in the Gulf War and led North Florida's recovery efforts following Hurricanes Andrew and Opal. His public service record and leadership in northeast Florida is truly second to none.

Mr. Speaker, all of Sheriff Shoar's awards and accolades are too numerous to list, but they do include the America's Most Wanted National First Responder Award, the American Legion's Top Cop Award, the Catholic Charities

of St. Johns County Good Samaritan Award, the Salvation Army's Gus Craig Award, and the prestigious Colonel Ed Taylor Award from the St. Johns County Veteran's Council for his many years of dedication to our Nation's veterans.

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In addition to his many successes in law enforcement, military service, and community service, Sheriff Shoar also holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Florida and an honorary doctorate of law degree from Flagler College.

During his 40 years of service, Sheriff Shoar made a positive difference in his community, his country, his agency, and the lives of many people, including my own.

His life reminds me of a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well.

Sheriff Shoar, David, my friend, you have made a difference and lived well.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I wish David well in his retirement and thank him for dedicating his life to the safety of our community and our Nation.

MASKS SAVE LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: When did we stop looking out for each other?

We used to be a country that reserved its highest and best celebration for those who sacrificed for us. That is why we honor Nathan Hale of Connecticut and Rosie the Riveter and the crew and passengers of Flight 93. It is why we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, to honor a man that gave his life to make us a better people, to make us a better Nation. They sacrificed and did the hard things so that we could have the blessings of freedom and prosperity.

Two days ago, Mr. Speaker, we remembered the start of World War II. 400,000 Americans died in that war, 290,000 in combat. Tom and Alleta Sullivan of Waterloo, Iowa, gave their sons in that war, all five of them. George Sullivan, Frank Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Madison Sullivan, and Albert Leo Sullivan, all five sons killed in the South Pacific in 1942, all five of them given for us.

Every single day, nurses, ER doctors, janitors, and delivery people take huge risks for us. For 2½ centuries, Americans have done what was asked of them and more. We serve on juries. We pay our taxes. We have been drafted into the military.

Why? We do these things not because we necessarily want to do them, but because we recognize that we have inherited freedoms, liberty, and pros-

perity from others who secured them for us. We understand that freedom and prosperity aren't gifts to be taken for granted, to be exalted above what we owe each other. They are blessings to be paid forward and to be fought for.

So what about this? What about this mask?

And what about this? "Mask off for freedom." Really?

This is a flimsy piece of cloth. It is uncomfortable. It is inconvenient. But it saves lives. It saves others.

When did we stop looking out for each other? You are not being asked to turn over your children, your five boys. You are not being asked to ration sugar or to have meatless Mondays. You are not even being asked to serve a week on a jury. You are being asked to wear a piece of cloth on your face to protect others.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to offer those who believe that COVID is a hoax or that masks don't save lives. All I can do is pray for them when they meet the souls of those for whom they would not make the smallest of sacrifices.

What I can do is remind us what makes us great as a people. It is not our wealth or our power. It is what we are willing to do for each other. What makes us great is what we are willing to offer up to each other, the small things that we owe each other and the inconceivable sacrifice upon which all of this is built.

At our best, what are we capable of doing for each other? Ask Tom and Alleta Sullivan.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. SUSAN DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Susan Day, a beloved teacher in the Corpus Christi community who passed away on October 5, 2020.

Mrs. Day was a passionate and dedicated educator at Calallen High School who retired this past May after 36 years of service to our community. Students and parents alike described her as devoted, energetic, and inspiring. She would challenge her students with quality education while encouraging them with her enthusiasm and charm.

The students of Calallen High School tell stories of the many experiences she gave them, including coaching the Calallen Challenge Team to three wins in the local TV quiz show.

The English department chose to recognize her with a plaque declaring the English hallway, a place she had spent so much time with her students, to be the Susan Day Hallway.

Susan Day was an amazing member of our community who has touched the lives of hundreds of students, parents, and teachers.

I offer my condolences to her family, friends, and students as they grieve the

loss of a great woman. She will be fondly remembered by all for the investment and impact she has made in the lives of so many students.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, time is running out for America's 500,000 independent restaurants and their 11 million employees. This is the hardest-hit sector of our economy.

We began our morning hour today listening to our friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), and it is the lead editorial in the New York Times, focusing on the crisis for these restaurants.

Independent restaurants are holding on literally by their fingertips. They are facing a new wave of restrictions that are necessary to deal with the COVID crisis that is rising.

The talk of expanding the Paycheck Protection Program, the PPP, absolutely misses the mark. It didn't work initially when it was introduced for the restaurants, and it won't work now.

They can't afford to wait for warmer weather in the spring or a vaccine in the summer. They don't need more debt. They need a lifeline now. Otherwise, we could see the loss of up to 80 percent of our independent restaurants that form the very fabric of our neighborhoods.

Luckily, there is a solution. My RESTAURANTS Act has already passed the House. It is a program that won't add to the deficit. In fact, it will actually provide more money to the Government. The cost is \$120 billion, but the economic analysis suggests that it will save \$248 billion.

Think about it for a moment. That is logical because, instead of adding massive unemployment costs, having restaurants defaulting on their mortgages, being evicted because they are unable to pay rent, and the ripple effect throughout the vast supply chain for independent restaurants, from farmers, ranchers, and people who supply linen, for a few months of support from the RESTAURANTS Act, it will enable them to have limited operation, be paying rent, or keeping current with their mortgages, until later in next year when they can return to normal operations. It is imperative that we deal directly with putting money in their hands.

Last week, former Vice President Biden, President-Elect Biden, said restaurants need grants, not loans. Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin said restaurants need grants; they don't need loans.

We have a solution that is available. The RESTAURANTS Act, as I said, has already passed the House of Representatives. Over half the Senate has co-sponsored this legislation.